

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/500,969

Examiner

Robert A. Clemente

Applicant(s)

MIWA ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18,19 and 21-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jesse Collier on January 9, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23 has been amended to read --A honeycomb filter for trapping particulate matter contained in dust-containing fluid, the filter comprising:

a number of through-holes surrounded by partition walls and extending in an axial direction,

the partition walls having filterability,

predetermined through-holes being plugged at one end, remaining through-holes being plugged at the other end,

wherein the honeycomb filter comprises an assembly of a plurality of honeycomb segments, and

in a section of each honeycomb segment perpendicular to the axial direction, a heat capacity of a central part of the honeycomb filter is higher than that of a peripheral part of the honeycomb filter[.], and

in a section of the honeycomb filter perpendicular to the axial direction, a thickness of the partition wall of the honeycomb segment positioned in a central part of

Art Unit: 1724

the honeycomb filter is set to be larger than that of the partition wall of the honeycomb segment positioned in a peripheral part.--

Claim 24 has been amended to read --The honeycomb filter according to claim 23, wherein the honeycomb filter comprises a plurality of the honeycomb segments bonded by a bonding material, and.

~~in a section of the honeycomb filter perpendicular to the axial direction, a thickness of the partition wall of the honeycomb segment positioned in a central part of the honeycomb filter is set to be larger than that of the partition wall of the honeycomb segment positioned in a peripheral part. --~~

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 18, 19, and 21 – 34 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Given the current amendments to claims 18 and 23, the examiner did not find any prior art that taught or suggested A honeycomb filter for trapping particulate matter contained in dust-containing fluid, the filter comprising: a number of through-holes surrounded by partition walls and extending in an axial direction, the partition walls having filterability, predetermined through-holes being plugged at one end, remaining through-holes being plugged at the other end, wherein in a section of the honeycomb filter perpendicular to the axial direction, heat capacity in a central part of the honeycomb filter is higher than that in a peripheral part of the honeycomb filter, wherein in the section of the honeycomb filter perpendicular to the axial direction, a thickness of

Art Unit: 1724

the partition wall in the central part is set to be larger than that of the partition wall in the peripheral part. The most relevant art US Patent No. 7,056,365, which is discussed in the previous office action. This art, however, does not meet the foreign priority date of February 26, 2002 and therefore cannot be applied.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A. Clemente whose telephone number is (571) 272-1476. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Smith Duane can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1724

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Robert A Clemente
Examiner
Art Unit 1724

RAC

DUANE SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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1-11-07